

Spotted Harrier breeding in the Mukinbudin area.—In October 1975 a pair of Spotted Harriers (*Circus assimilis*) were observed nesting on the property of Mr. L. E. Waters in the Shire of Mukinbudin. The nest was sited on the edge of a belt of mallee next to a cleared paddock which was fallow. Bounding on to this paddock is the Barbalin water reserve which contains mainly granite outcrops dispersed with low scrub.

The nest was a large platform of dry twigs with some fresh *Eucalyptus* leaves on top. It was placed 25 feet up in a gimlet mallee (*Eucalyptus salubris*). Unfortunately at this time, after having spent two weeks in the district, I was only able to spend an hour observing the nest. Without being able to see into the nest I came to the conclusion that the Spotted Harriers had young chicks in the nest and that they were feeding.

This sighting is the closest record of the Spotted Harrier breeding near Perth.

—BOB GOODALE, Safety Bay

Observation of a Ground Parrot in the Cape Arid National Park.—In February 1965 while driving through the Cape Arid reserve, approximately 100 km east of Esperance, we flushed a green parrot from off the sand track. It flew low over the heath and plummeted into a small patch of mallee. Although I did not have my binoculars I pursued the bird, flushing it from its cover several times. Its flight and general colour convinced me it was a Ground Parrot (*Pezoporus wallicus*).

In November 1975 I returned to the reserve and found most of it had been devastated by fire and much of the surrounding country being exploited for agriculture. The tracks of vehicles were much more evident. Again a parrot was flushed by our vehicle from off the track in similar country where we had seen a parrot some ten years before. The parrot flew fast and low, plummeting into the heath as would a quail. Several times I flushed the bird to find it each time in a different place from where it had alighted. The birds obviously run very quickly some distance after alighting. All flights were similar, fast and low for about 50 metres.

The striking barring of the tail feathers was easily seen and I was in no doubt that it was indeed a Ground Parrot, and the same as I had seen ten years earlier.

The area where the bird was seen was dry and sandy heathland, which had escaped recent burning. We covered many miles on foot looking for more birds but without success. However they appear difficult to flush, preferring to move quickly over the ground under the protection of vegetation.

—RAY GARSTONE, Woodanilling.

Notes on a Stranded Pygmy Sperm Whale from Broome.—On April 16, 1976, a Pygmy Sperm Whale (*Kogia breviceps*) was washed up on Cable Beach, Broome. It was a small (2 metres long) female. Apart from a shallow laceration on the snout and scrapings (mainly on the ventral surface) there appeared to be no external evidence of injury. An interesting feature noted however was that both flippers had been pierced. The right flipper had a well-healed 3 cm diameter puncture in the trailing edge, whilst the left flipper had been notched by a similar hole that had broken the edge.

Souvenir hunters had removed or broken all but six of the fine, recurved teeth of the lower jaw. As with the large Sperm Whale there were no teeth in the upper jaw.